

“Fresh concrete: a multi-phase, multi-scale composite” was sponsored by Italcementi Group. The presentation of Biomaterials and Biopolymers communications continued during the afternoon session, which finished with the presentation of Suspensions and Colloids communications. In these sessions, rheological and texture properties of gels, bio-gels, thickening and stabilizing agents and other current topics like magnetorheology and electrorheology were discussed.

The three best posters were awarded by Europhysics Letters, their rigorous content, originality, and design being considered as the criteria for the final decision. Also the SPR and GER awarded the two best Ph.D. theses on rheology that have been defended in Spain and Portugal for the last two years. During the conference gala dinner a tribute to Dr. Elvira Costell was paid: Dr. A. Santamaría, GER president “in an emotional ceremony” commended the professional career of Elvira Costell, GER vice president on the occasion of her recent retirement. She has been a pio-

neer of rheology in Spain with a great research production in food rheology and technology. Finally, Dr. T. Cidade, SPR president announced that the next IBEREO 2015 will take place in Coimbra, Portugal. She also unveiled the birth of a new electronic journal of rheology, e-rheo-iba, encouraging to include this journal among the means of dissemination of the results of research in rheology.

This 4<sup>th</sup> edition has convened more attendants than previous editions, with researchers from countries such as Brazil, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, South-Africa, Southern-Korea, Turkey as well as from Spain and Portugal. We expect the convening power of the next meeting will be even larger, thanks to the interest that may arise in researchers from other countries.

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## 12<sup>TH</sup> SWISS SOFT DAYS (SSD 12)

BERNE, SWITZERLAND  
OCTOBER 14, 2013

The 12<sup>th</sup> Swiss Soft Days Workshop has been held in Bern in the middle of October 2013. It has been a part of the series of workshops in the frame of Swiss Soft Days initialized by ETH Zurich in 2010. The interest of the community lies to unified scientist working in the field of Soft Matter in Switzerland. The society consists of physicist, chemists and biologists working in the topic of soft matter. The venue of this workshop was held at Bern University Hospital. Due to that fact the focus of the workshop was shifted into medical applications.

**Rheology of Complex Systems.** T. Kowalewski has opened the first session with an invited lecture on “Application of nanofibres for biomedical diagnostics and therapy” followed by four short talks given by N. Fernandez on “Microscopic mechanism for the shear-thickening of non-Brownian

suspensions”, P. Fischer on “Phospholipid bicelles to generate magnetically switchable material”, J.M. Habert on “Liquid-crystalline elastomer – nanoparticle hybrids with reversible switch of magnetic memory”, and by P.A. Rühls on “Bacterial hydrophobicity and biofilm formation at water-oil interfaces”.

**Soft Matter in Medicine Session.** The session was a special one where medical doctors from different disciplines of medicine were presenting issues related to the soft matter in rheumatology, emergency care, plastic surgery and nephrology. The session was opened by S. Reichenbach on “Arthrosis – when cartilage fails”, S. Jakob on “The use of colloid osmotic substances as blood plasma expanders”, M. Constantinescu on “Silicon implants – advantages and medical risks”, and by

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A. Pasch on “A label-free serum test measuring overall calcification inhibition”.

**Nanocarriers.** This session was hosting two talks: C. Kinnear’s presentation on “A study of the ligand exchange on gold nanorods leads to a hydrophobic drug nanocarrier” and D. Kedracki’s talk on “Polymer-aptamer hybrid emulsion templating yields bio-responsive nanocapsules”.

**Suspension Structures and Detection Methods.** This session was opened by G. Longo with a presentation on “A mechanical sensor to study movement at the nanoscale” followed by A. Scotti reporting on “Transient formation of bcc crystal in suspensions of pNIPAM-based microgels”, M. Spulber on “Laccase encapsulating polymerosomes for catalysed biotransformation”, and A. Scotti on “Effect of size polydispersity on the phase behaviour of soft microgel suspensions”.

Poster sessions were full of discussions and twenty posters were presented. The detailed program can be found on the workshop website: <http://swissoftdays.ethz.ch>. Final remarks and invitation for the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Swiss Soft Days at ETH Zurich in Spring 2014 was given by P. Fischer. After finishing of the workshop the get-together was organized to prolong the discussion and collaboration between the researchers in the community of soft matter in Switzerland.

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